THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Andhra Pradesh Backward Classes Cooperative Finance Corporation, a State Channelising Agency for Andhra Pradesh submitted proposals for artisans assistance for a total outlay of Rs. 230.02 crore out of which Rs. 101.54 crore was indicated as share of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC). As the proposal was not conforming to the NBCFDC guidelines and it did not contain complete project details the SCA was advised to furnish the same. Besides the SCA had not furnished utilisation certificate in respect of loans advanced to it earlier. Subsequently, the SCA revised its orginal proposal to a realistic level seeking loan assistance of Rs. 18.15 crores under the 'ADARNA' scheme. The NBCFDC has sanctioned and disbursed Rs. 17.38 crores to the SCA under 'ADARNA' scheme to benefit 104312 beneficiaries.

Beggars in the Country

3030. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beggars in the country-male, women and children-separately; and

(b) the rate of increase of beggars for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No nation-wide survey regarding number of child beggars in the country has been undertaken by the Ministry as such. However, according to a report of the Registrar General of India, the total number of beggars in 1991 in the country (except J&K) was 5,44,048 out of which, number of male beggars was 3,33,334 and that of female beggars was 2,10,714.

(b) The information is not maintained by the Ministry as the subject is dealth with by the States under their respective Anti-Beggary Laws.

Ongoing and New Schemes in Operation for NGOs

3031. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the ongoing and new Central schemes in operation for providing financial aid to NGOs and State Governments and relevant details thereof scheme-wise alongwith eligiblity conditions;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the performance of these schemes recently for the past year vis-a-vis preceding two years, scheme-wise and year-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the significant achievements of Government during the last one year and the steps proposed during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The details of the varios schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under which financial assistance is given to State Government/ U.T. Administrations and N.G.Os. are avilable in the annual Report for 1997-98, copies of which have been placed on the Parliament Library. In addition, six new schemes have been launched during 1998-99, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below).

(b) to (d) A review of all the schemes under implementation has been undertaken with a view to make them

user-friendly, flexible, enhance their coverage and usefulness, revised the financial norms in keeping with the changes in the price-index and to achieve better targetting of the beneficiaries. The results of the review under-taken is expected to be reflected in implementation of the various schemes in the coming years. However, the review of the schemes is an on-going exercise.

Statement

The Details of the new schemes launched during year 1998-99

Sl.No	Name of the Scheme	Aims and objectives and criteria
1	2	3
1.	Assistance to voluntary Organisation working for Welfare of Backward Classes	To involve the voluntary sector in improving the educational and socio-economic conditions of Backward Classes. Voluntary Organisations registered under an appropriate Act having the requisite infrastructure for implementing the scheme with due support from State Government/ U.T. Administration concerned, or other designated bodies are eligible to get financial assistance under the scheme.
2.	Pre-examination Coaching for Other Backward Classes	To coach/train candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes candidates to enable them to compete on equal terms in various competitive/entrance examinations. Eligibility for financial assistance to Voluntary Organisations will be the same as for (1) above.
3.	Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls	To provide for better educational opportunities to students belonging to OBCs by constructing hostels in the States/UTs which have large OBC population but inadequate hostel facilities for OBCs. State Government/U.T. Administrations, Institutions/organisations set up Government as autonomous bodies/ Societies registered under Societies Registration Act and similar bodies, Educational and other Institutions owned and controlled by either Central/State Government/U.T. administration are eligible for assistance under the scheme. Financial Assistance from the Central Government will be limited to 50% of the cost of construction,

1	2	3
		except that 100% Central assistance will be given to Central Government and U.T. Administration institutions.
4.	Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC students	To spread education amongst children of such OBC parents whose annual income is below double the poverty line income. The scheme is implemented/administered by State/ Government /U.T. Administrations. Central assistance of 50% will be provided to State Governments and 100% in the case of U.T. Administrations.
5.	Post-matric Scholarships for OBC students	To provide financial assistance to OBC students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. OBC students whose annual income and/or whose parents/guardians' annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 44,500/- are eligible for the award of scholarship. 100% Central assistance will be provided to the State Governments/U.T. Administrations under the scheme.
6.	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)	To bring about all round development of Primitive Tribal Groups. 75 tribal communities in 14 States and 1 U.T. have been indentified and categorised as Primitive Tribal Groups. Under the scheme, 100% Central assistance will be available to Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDPs), Tribal Research Institute (TRI) and Non-Governmental Organisations for undertaking activities such as awareness generation and confidence building, training for skill development of tribal youth organisation of self-help groups and provision of services/inputs not covered by any existing scheme.